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CHINESE AID TO NORTH VIETNAM

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FOREWORD

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CHINESE AID TO NORTH VIETNAM

[This report represents three articles on Chinese Communist assistance to North Vietnam during the past several years appearing in the Hanoi newspapers on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Communist regime in China.]

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DEEP SENTIMENT, HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY

Nhan Dan
No 2021, 28 September 1959,
Page 2,
Vietnamese, newspaper

Dang Pho

In harmony with China's 650 million people who are joyfully reviewing the first pages of their ten-year history of national construction under the glorious people's republican regime, tomorrow, 29 September, the stationery-producing Hong-ha plant, the first of the 18 factories which China is helping us build within the framework of the three-year plan, will celebrate its inauguration.

Standing on this side of Ly Thuong Kiet Street, Hanoi, and looking at the former Societe de Transports Automobiles Indochinois (S.T.A.I.), it is certain that you are not unfamiliar with the construction works here. But inside those old buildings, which had just been remodeled and expanded, were assembled hundreds of machines which make us proud of having a stationery-producing plant ranked among the best in Southeast Asia.

From the carbon paper-producing machine, weighing almost three tons, which produces all kinds of good grade carbon paper comparable with the French-made Armore, Dragon brands, to that machine, small and good-looking as a small radio receiver, which makes the platinum points of pen, every piece of equipment here is very accurately engineered. Each machine has its own motor which, in case of failure of the next one, will still allow it to operate on an independent basis. However, do not be afraid that the "individualistic way of working" can exist here! With meticulous distribution of work, each machine closely related to the whole complex assembly line. A small piece of thin metal, before becoming a simple pen, has to rely on the work of several machines: the cutting machine, the splitting machine, the shaping machine, etc.

During working hours, at the moment when the machine operator is not there, the automatic machines still work by themselves "in an industrial manner". This would make us feel that the usefulness of men here is very little. No, it is not. Each part of a pen not only relies on the accurate machine but also depends largely on the worker's technical ability in order to become part of a small article that is beautiful, durable and desired by many people. That is why, when our agents and workers went to China to be trained, our Chinese comrades did give them all convenient conditions which would make them receive the highest techniques of China. Our Vietnamese students were sent to only those highly specialized plants; for instance, they learned how to make pen

holders at the Tan Hoa plant, paper cutters at accessories-producing Plant Number 2, and pens at the Hoa-phu plant which for the past several decades is the most well-known pen-producing institution in Shanghai.

With more than 300 types of machines, the stationery-producing Hong-ha plant can manufacture nearly 30 items. In Shanghai at this time, if they want to produce that many items of merchandise, they will need 17 different plants. But in our country where the market is small and the consumption is minor, we need only a few pieces of machinery to manufacture each item. For instance, we need only two machines, being operated every day for eight hours, to manufacture enough pins to supply the whole northern part of the country. This fact has been the source of quite remarkable difficulties in the equipping of the plant itself.

Has any machinery-manufacturing factory ever been willing to execute an order for only two machines to be manufactured in accordance with new dimensions and within a very short period of time? It is only through the friendship of international proletarianism that one country has been willing to help another in such difficult circumstances. The Chinese comrades guided our agents through the stationery-producing factories in Shanghai. When we chose any piece of machinery, the Chinese factory concerned was immediately willing to disassemble that machine and send it to us, in spite of the fact that such a machine might be the most beloved piece of equipment of that factory which was hurriedly producing to keep pace with the big leap forward. Comrade Rang, assistant director of the Hong-ha plant, told us the story of an old worker at the repair shop of the pen-producing Shanghai company: For almost forty years' working in a capitalist factory, he had never thought of technical improvement. But since the liberation, he has so far twice improved his machine. In 1953, his first improved machine was sent as an aid item to a stationery-producing plant in Korea. In 1958, after he had improved the second more elaborate machine, he returned to a less modern machine so that the better one might be sent to our Hong-ha plant.

Our group of agents went to the Dai Minh factory to have on-the-spot training. Upon their arrival there, they saw a banner with the following words that were so touching to them: "Let's interrupt our own plan and concentrate our efforts on completing, before the scheduled deadline, the plan for supplying equipment to Vietnam's stationery-producing plant!" The Shanghai office in charge of testing the material used in stationery production was boosting up its productivity with the following motto: "Let's execute first Vietnam's order for sample merchandise!"

But more valuable than machinery and equipment are the well-experienced technicians who came from dozens of factories in Shanghai to help us build up our plant. Comrades Liang Shou-hsi, Liu Yen-ching, Wu Shao-ying did not mind hardship and travelled hundreds of kilometers to the

mountains and forests of Lao Kay, Yen Bay, Tuyen Quang, to look for graphite deposits and yellow wood used in the manufacturing of pencils. In winter as well as in summer, Comrades Tung Nung-pao, Ch'en Chao-yuan and other technicians were working continuously, day and night, to assist us in assembling machines, deciding upon working methods, organizing our production; they were always ready to tell us their secret skills which would allow us to manufacture the best products. What they have left behind is the gratitude and deep affection of our agents and workers.

More than a year's industrious laboring has passed. Our agents and workers, along with the Chinese technicians, successfully overcame difficulties, fought against the terrible heat beside the hot iron bars and under hot corrugated iron roofs, constructed smokestacks 20 - 30 meters high or competed with one another in working at noon time and in the late evening for consecutive weeks to complete the construction of the plant ahead of schedule. Exactly in September, the month of the historical events of our people and also the month when our students return to their schools, the stationery-producing Hong-ha plant joyfully displays its first products.

You will find there the "Hong-ha", "Cuu-Long (Mekong)", and "Truong Son" fountain pens whose quality will please you. Probably, as far as style is concerned, some aspect needs improvement. But you will be happy to know that 100 years after the first fountain pen made its appearance in the market of the Western countries, now comes the first time when our country can produce by itself fountain pens. Is there anything that could prevent us from catching up with the more advanced countries regarding this field of activities?

Those who have been preferring the regular pens of the French-made "Sergeant Major", "Vahada" and German-made "Flamand" brands will be able to buy all the three types of pens at the Hong-ha plant. If we do have glass bottles good enough so that the ink will not decompose, the manufacturers of the "Cuu-long (Mekong)" ink will guarantee that our ink is by no means inferior to any kind of ink in the world because it is prepared with the most advanced process of today. Furthermore, regarding its chemical composition, our ink contains Vitamin B which gives forth a very pleasant scent. The younger students who are learning to draw certainly like color crayons. The Hong-ha plant will supply them with all kinds of crayons satisfying the international standard. But our young readers should not buy hard pencils of the type used for writing on carbon paper to shade their drawings! If you should buy them by error, do not blame our pencils for lack of quality.

With machines having plenty of producing power and using over 3000 items of raw material and complex material - from a small piece of clay used to mix with the lead for pencils to the most precious metals like gold and platinum used to make pen points - the Hong-ha plant also manufactures pins, paper fasteners, safety pins, etc. And, with merely a switching of frames, those machines which cut metal used to produce pens and manufacture pins will be able to manufacture springs, watch chains, hair pins and toys... without the waste of any small amount of material.

Along with the Hoang Van Thu, Viet Tri paper-making plants, the Hong-ha plant now shares in the burden - that of satisfying our people's ever-increasing need for stationery. Our foreign trade will also be increasingly expanded. The "Hong-ha" fountain pens, the "Cuu-long (Mekong)" ink, despite the fact that they are newcomers, will also join the pens and ink produced by other countries now available in the international market in accordance with this saying "the younger generation is redoubtable," and remind us forever of the Vietnam-China friendship.

OUR GRATITUDE FOR CHINA'S GENEROUS AND UNSELFISH AID

Nhan Dan
No. 2021, 28 September 1959, Hanoi,
Page 3,
Vietnamese, newspaper

Nguyen Van Tran
Assistant Director,
State Planning Committee

On the 1st of October this year, the Vietnamese people, like the peoples of the progressive world, were joyfully enthusiastic and encouraged on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the creation of the great People's Republic of China.

China and Vietnam are two fraternal neighboring countries which long have had very close relations. Ever since there appeared the revolutionary proletarian movement which, in China, was led by the Communist Party of China, and in Vietnam, by the Communist Party of Indo-China, this fraternal relationship has been more and more developed and strengthened, mostly when the two peoples were so close to each other in the long and hard struggle against imperialism and feudalism. China's revolution, being successful ten years ago, has been a source of encouragement for Vietnam's revolution. Vietnam's success in five years of economic recovery and development, cultural development and of improvement of the people's living standard has partially been the result of the two countries' relationship, based on equality, mutual respect and assistance, and on the lofty spirit of world proletarianism.

After the restoration of peace, we had immediate difficulties arising from the fifteen years of continuous war and destruction and many long-range difficulties, created by an extremely backward, poor, crippled economy which had been the miserable effect of a whole century of ruthless imperialist rule. We have overcome the immediate difficulties and are on our way toward creating a socialist economy. On this occasion, we have to say something about the enormous aid of the Soviet Union, China, and other socialist countries.

In the past five years, China has been giving Vietnam whole-hearted assistance. The amount of money alone, which China gave us without asking us to pay back, rose to nearly 900 million yuan - an amount equal to the total domestic income of our 1955, 1956, 1957 budgets combined. The total number of over-all mechanization projects is 92, of which some have been completed, some are being carried out, and still others are in their stage of preparation.

In industries, China assisted us in the fields of mineral exploitation, electric power production, improving of agricultural products, food industry, consumer goods industry, mechanical industry, chemical and fertilizer-producing industry, construction material industry, oil industry, iron and steel industry.

This assistance consisted of: mechanization; exploitation of chromite mines, the Quan Trieu coal mines, and iron mines; installation of the Viet Tri, Thai Nguyen power stations, a quantity of cables, 14 rice mills, sugar refineries, match making factories; restoration and enlargement of the Nam Dinh weaving factories; construction of the Hanoi weaving factory, a series of factories producing consumer goods such as hardware, ceramics, paper, soap, stationery, cigarettes, rubber, plastic products, electric bulbs, vacuum-bottles, batteries, etc. China is helping us in the construction of factories for the production of fertilizers, chemical products, oil, and of a combined cast iron and steel mill. The oil warehouses and tanks are also included in the Chinese aid along with a number of fishing boats.

Thanks to such an enormous aid, we have been able to increase the quantity of our export products, our people have enough of consumer goods necessary for their living as cotton material, matches, soap, knitted underwears. At the end of the three-year plan, there will be enough paper, home tools, and fertilizers for them to use. With the assistance of China in the fields of production of electrical power, cast iron and steel, we will gradually progress toward a mechanized, modernized industry.

In the field of communications and postal service, China granted assistance to every phase of our communication system: railways, roads, waterways, and postal service. This assistance consisted of: reconstruction of the Hanoi-Muc Nam Quan railway line, of such large bridges as the Phu Lang Thuong bridge, the Viet Tri bridge, the Ninh Binh bridge; a number of medium-sized bridges were also reconstructed thanks to China's aid in machinery, technique and construction material. Equipment for the roads, automobile repair shops, tire repair shops (which will become our future tire-producing factory), sea-going vessels, ferry-boats, vessel-building yard, a number of locomotives and railway cars were the items included in the Chinese aid.

In the postal service field, China gave us equipment and made available to us techniques which were used to restore our network of wire service, telephones, radio transmitters and receivers.

Thanks to this assistance, the movement of the people, the transportation of goods at home and abroad, the people's feelings, the fast contact among the various levels of leadership of the State, the close daily relationship between Vietnam and other socialist countries, the international relations between Vietnam and other countries in the world, have been rendered easier.

In the fields of agriculture and water resources, China's aids were numerous and included the repair of the Bai Thuong dam; the restoration of a number of water resource installations; equipment for the water resource field, a number of pumps, pressing machines; equipment for the Institute of Architecture-Water Resource Experimenting, the agricultural experimental farms, the chemical laboratories, the drug-producing plants which manufacture drugs used in animal raising. Recently, China helped us in the construction of the Xuan Quan lock, which was part of the big Bac Hung Hai water resource work, made suggestions regarding the principle and ways used in water resource exploitation, and studied the plan for harnessing the Red River.

In the fields of culture, public health, education, physical training and sports, China gave us whole-hearted assistance which consisted of machinery; equipment for our broadcasting network and news agency; equipment for secondary schools, railroad system, communications and postal service, for our industries, water and forest service; 46 laboratories for our educational uses; photographic equipment; and equipment for use in public health, etc.

In the field of scientific studies, China built for us a number of experimental installations such as the Research Institute, the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications, assisted us in the probing of underground resources, and those resources under the sea and in the forests, in the fields of water harnessing and fish raising.

Such physical aids have had their remarkable effects on our economy. But what is the most important and valuable of all is the fact that China has sent us technicians and skilled workers who made available to us their modern techniques, offered us their valuable experiences in reconstruction work, in policy-making, in management and organization. That is why our agents were able to make a lot of progress - for instance, in the railway service, they did the planning and constructing of medium-sized bridges, planned and constructed by themselves the railroads in the Dong Anh Thai Nguyen cast-iron-and-steel zone; our agents and workers were able to manage their own factories, develop new initiatives, imitate the working spirit of the Chinese technicians.

That is not all. In the past five years, China helped Vietnam in the training of more than three thousand apprentices. These agents had their on-the-spot training in factories and institutions in China, therefore they made very fast progress, and upon their returning to their home land, they would become the hard core of our production and activities. China also trained for Vietnam 1,200 students in intermediate and advanced technical schools.

As for trade relations and goods exchange, China is to Vietnam a loyal and whole-hearted customer. Our customer has supplied us with many kinds of machines, raw material, equipment, and chemical products used in industries and handicraft, and those consumer goods vital for the daily life of our people. China bought from us up to thirty percent of our total exports. For that reason we were able to overcome the difficulties in the shortage of goods which occurred after the North had been liberated, and guarantee continuous and ever-increasing production.

China's aid to Vietnam is great and with no strings attached. In the last five years, our people made a lot of progress toward self-support, restored quickly their economy, and are now doing their best to develop it into a total victory. We already have the basis on which to develop stronger and stronger and to build fast socialism. Our people's accomplishments are closely linked to the fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries. Although in ten years of construction, China has gained such physical assets of socialism, it is still poor. Nevertheless, China has granted us whole-hearted aid. We are therefore more grateful to it for such aid.

On this happy occasion of the tenth anniversary of the creation of the People's Republic of China, we warmly welcome the great achievements of the Chinese people, deeply thank the Communist Party, the Government and people of China for their whole-hearted and generous aid, decide to further tighten the friendly ties binding Vietnam and China and to do our best to develop self-support in order to make full and better use of such aid.

UNSELFISH AID, A SIGN OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Bao Tan Viet Hoa

Vietnam News Agency

No 1341, 28 September 1959, Hanoi,

Page 2,

Chinese, newspaper

Anyone who has come through Hai Duong, Viet Tri, Nam Dinh, Dap Cau, Thai Binh, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa and other such places cannot help but notice 3 - 4 stories high structures of similar lines and new construction in all these localities. These are among the ten modern rice mills, constructed with Chinese aid to Vietnam, which are engaged in production right now, and which occupy a total area of 77,000 square meters. In these mills every day, a total of 1,260 tons of coarse rice grain is transformed into snowy white rice, ready for the table and transportation to cities and villages to the North or for export.

When the northern part of Vietnam was first liberated, there was great difficulty in supplying rice to cities with populations of several hundred thousand as the original rice mills were only half mechanized, and their locations were widely dispersed.

At this time, the Chinese Communist Party and the government realized this difficulty of the people of Vietnam, and filled with the socialist camp's spirit of brotherly cooperation and mutual aid, resolved to help Vietnam in the construction of these ten rice mills equipped with the newest automatic facilities.

In September of 1955, a group of Chinese specialists headed by Comrade Li Chin-min came to Vietnam to initiate studies. Following this, a hundred construction engineers, technical cadres, technical laborers, and ten freight cars full of machinery and equipment arrived in Vietnam in succession to assist the Vietnamese cadres and laborers in the actual construction of rice mills.

During the early phases of construction, countless difficulties were met by the Chinese specialists. Besides climatic disturbances such as sudden rain and clearing, and the low technical level of the Vietnamese cadre and labor element, other difficulties include a lack of sufficient construction raw materials. However, due to the fact that the Chinese specialists considered their work here in Vietnam to be as important as that in their own country, a high degree of working spirit and creativity was expressed to overcome all kinds of difficulties.

Engineer comrades Hsueh Pei-chun, Lu Cheng-ho, Yen Hsun-liang, etc. became so sick that they were only able to take rice gruel, but they remained at their posts. On several occasions, in order to improve on the methods for spraying concrete, they spent all night studying the problem together with their Vietnamese counterparts. During the construction of the rice polishing mills at Hanoi and Haiphong, no one could ever forget the tirelessness of Chinese specialist Comrade Lin Kuo-I. This old comrade of more than 60 years of age, with a crop of snowy white hair, had never known a day of rest during a more than two-year period. Every small nail or piece of board would be picked up by him with care. By these little things, Comrade Lin Kuo-I has set a good example for the Vietnamese cadres and workers.

Even now, many who had participated in the construction of rice polishing mills at Nam Dinh, Thai Binh, Viet Tri would bring up the name of Tsao Chin-fu. This model metal worker from Shanghai never allowed his working enthusiasm to be wilted by the unbearable heat of May. In order to help the Vietnamese workers raise their technical level, Comrade Tsao Chin-fu exhausted all means to overcome difficulties encountered in translation and was able to impart techniques over to the Vietnamese workers.

Construction of a rice polishing mill during the monsoon season is extremely difficult. A heavy downpour of rain at times would affect the whole course of construction planning. During the process of overcoming the difficulties produced by the wind and rain, the Chinese specialists showed the determined fighting spirit and the love and friendship for the proletariat. During construction of the rice polishing mill at Nam Dinh, when wind and rain both struck hard on one occasion, Chinese comrades Lu Cheng-ho, Ch'u An-kang, and Meng Tzu-fa braved the elements together with the Vietnamese cadres and workers to protect the structure under construction. During the struggle with the wind and rain, the Chinese comrades took their raincoats off and gave them to the Vietnamese workers for protection against the rain. What was equally moving was the example set by Comrade Li Yu-cheng. He had just returned home after he was relieved of duty, but when he heard the news about the damaging wind and rain, he returned without hesitation, even though he was very tired, climbed up on the roof of the warehouse of the Hanoi rice polishing mill, and helped the other workers in covering up the leaks so that a whole ton of food staples was prevented from being soaked. He was also the same person who, without thought for his personal safety, saved a female worker at the Dap Cau rice polishing mill from being electrocuted.

After a full 30 months, the Chinese specialists aided Vietnam in the construction of ten modern rice polishing mills that handle a combined yearly output of 450,000 tons of rice. All the mills were completed

15 days to two months ahead of schedule. Of these, the rice polishing mill at Ninh Giang was completed 5 months ahead of time with a savings of about 600,000 yuan to the government. During the process of construction, the Chinese specialists also helped Vietnam train more than a thousand technical workers, and 512 technical cadres and production management cadres, so that the Vietnamese workers can shoulder the responsibility of production management completely and construct four more new rice polishing mills at the same time.

The high degree of working enthusiasm exuded by these sincere friends has contributed much to building a prosperous and strong Northern Vietnam, and to cementing the friendship between the peoples of Vietnam and China.

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